

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 02545 041219Z

42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 IGA-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 MC-02

EB-07 INR-07 /051 W

----- 044617

R 041020Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1849

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2545

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NP

SUBJECT: NEPALESE INTEREST IN AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 126276; (B)/ KATHMANDU A-18 OF APRIL 11, 1975.

1. AS EMBASSY NOTED IN ITS ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENT (REF B) QTE IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS (FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT) WE SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO UPSET THE TRADITIONAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS EXISTED BETWEEN INDIA AND NEPAL IN MILITARY COOPERATION....WE SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE NEPAL TO LOOK TO US AS AN ARMS SUPPLIER. UNQUOTE. ALTHOUGH GOI MAY BE UNWILLING TO REPLACE CURRENT EQUIPMENT HELD BY NEPALESE, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND THAT U.S. ATTEMPT TO ASSUME ROLE TRADITIONALLY PLAYED BY INDIANS IN MAJOR AREA OF NEPAL'S DEFENSE NEEDS. SHOULD U.S. AGREE TO SUPPLY EQUIPMENT REQUESTED BY THAPA, WE WOULD HAVE TO ANTICIPATE FURTHER FUTURE GON REQUESTS. INDIANS WOULD IMMEDIATELY QUESTION MOTIVES BEHIND U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY, WHICH THEY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SEE AS AN ANTI-INDIA MOVE DESIGNED EFFORT TO DIMINISH INDO-NEPALESE RELATIONSHIP. IN ANY EVENT, EQUIPMENT REQUIRED WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE GON'S DEFENSE CAPABILITIES AND WOULD PRESUMABLY INVOLVE US IN CONTINUING SPARE PARTS AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS.

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2. GIVEN OUR RELUCTANCE TO EMBARK ON SIGNIFICANT MILITARY

SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH NEPAL WE SHOULD THEREFORE AVOID  
GIVING THAPA IMPRESSION THAT USG IS LIKELY TO RESPOND  
POSITIVELY TO HIS REQUEST. TACTICALLY IT MIGHT BE PRE-  
FERRABLE TO AVOID GIVING ANY RESPONSE TO THAPA'S INFORMAL  
SOUNDINGS. HOWEVER, SHOULD HE RAISE ISSUE AGAIN, WE WOULD  
STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THAPA BE TOLD THAT WE CANNOT CONSIDER  
ISSUE WITHOUT FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST CLEARED BY ALL ELEMENTS  
OF GON. AT SAME TIME THAPA SHOULD ALSO BE TOLD THAT OUR DESIRE  
FOR WRITTEN APPLICATION IN NO WAY IMPLIES WILLINGNESS TO  
SUPPLY EQUIPMENT. WE WOULD OF COURSE CONSIDER FORMAL REQUEST  
CAREFULLY BUT HE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT IT RAISES MANY COMPLICATED  
POLITICAL ISSUES FOR US.

3. THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND CLEARED WITH  
DEFATT.  
QUAINTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AIR DEFENSE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Film Number:** D750195-0082  
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